

# CITY OF REDMOND TRAILS COMMISSION

## MINUTES — September 29, 2004 Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Chairperson Gary Smith, Julie Barnfather, Kris Colt, Ken Bechmann, Sue Chenault (arrived at 7:20 p.m.)

**ABSENT:** Glenn Eades

**CITY STAFF:** Linda Gorremans, Parks Planning; Pam Maybee, Recording Secretary

**AUDIENCE:** None

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*Note: Bold/italic text denotes Staff and Commissioner follow-up resulting from this meeting.*

### **AGENDA**

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Gary Smith called to order the regular meeting of the Redmond Trails Commission (RTC) at 7:05 p.m. at the Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center (ORSCC).

**Notations:** Maureen McCoy has resigned from the Trails Commission.

#### **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion for approval of July 28, 2004 RTC minutes as submitted by:**  
Commissioner Barnfather  
**Second by:** Commissioner Bechmann  
**Motion carried:** Unanimous 4-0

#### **III. INTRODUCTION OF YOUTH ADVOCATE**

Morgan Hargraves, the new RTC youth advocate, was absent from this meeting. Commissioners concurred to wait to meet her at the next RTC meeting before introducing her to City Council.

#### **IV. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

None present

#### **V. ITEMS OF INTEREST/HANDOUTS**

##### **A. Acquisition and Development of Public Trails**

Handout

##### **B. Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee (PBAC) Agenda – August & September 2004**

Handouts (September meeting was cancelled)

##### **C. Trust for Public Lands Draft Public Opinion Survey**

Gorremans reported the Redmond Park Board would be discussing a preliminary draft of the bond public opinion survey at their meeting in October. The survey is the preliminary basis for a city-wide bond, which would probably occur in 2005. Gorremans did not know the timeline, as it continues to change.

Commissioners were asked to review the survey questions and make comments/changes, especially to those questions needing clarification. Since it would be a telephone survey, Gorremans asked consideration be given to the length and technicality of some of the questions. She suggested that since reference to trails was lacking in the questions, it would be good to add the word “trails” whenever mentioning “parks.” Trust for Public Lands, who assisted the City of Kirkland with the development and acquisition of a bond, are now helping Redmond develop its bond.

Colt and Barnfather both commented that the questions were too complex for a telephone survey, i.e., the language was too technical and questions too open ended.

***Smith volunteered to attend the Park Board meeting when the survey would be discussed. Bechmann would also try to attend, depending on his schedule.***

Bechmann asked if a staff person (or other) could come to RTC to give an overview and vision of the bond use before the public survey. Gorremans replied it was too early in the process, and that the Park Board was the lead on this. Barnfather suggested contacting Lori Snodgrass to get an explanation of the vision for the bond use.

Colt suggested staff could summarize the RTC's general opinion to the Park Board, i.e., that these questions were "woefully lacking." Barnfather believed the Parks and Recreation's initial question in the survey should address the issue of public concern regarding open space deficit, then inquire regarding willingness to support a bond. Questions following could elaborate on options, preferences, and programs, etc. Bechmann believed some questions were irrelevant, e.g., those regarding a sunset date. He also suggested raising the issue of devoting open space areas to wildlife/habitat protection.

***Gorremans offered to email the survey to Commissioners so they could type comments below the questions and send their responses directly to Tim Cox. Commissioners should "reply all" when commenting via email.***

#### **D. Law Restriction – Use of Motorized Scooters (handout)**

Handout. Smith noted that the City of Kirkland has been studying the issue of motorized scooters for a year. He supposed Redmond would not be far behind in issuing restrictions. Colt observed it was the Police Department, not the Parks Department, who made the restrictions. ***Gorremans would report as more information comes forward.***

## **VI. DISCUSSION AND REPORTS**

### **A. Trail Tour Discussion**

Gorremans asked Commissioners if they were interested in having a trail tour, as they usually do annually. She suggested combining it with the RTC October meeting. She noted some trails projects currently under construction would be worth viewing, and also, a trail tour would be good exposure for the new youth advocate.

Smith proposed choosing just one trail that Commissioners could walk to investigate trail connections. Barnfather suggested either (1) the trail next to West Lake Sammamish by Marymoor Park entrance that goes south to the Bridle Crest Trail; or (2) the area of the PSE trail between Red-Wood and Sammamish River Trail.

Commissioners agreed to walk the trail across from the Marymoor entrance. Going together in a van was discussed. It was noted it would be dark at the end of October and time was a factor. ***Commissioners decided to meet individually (no van) at Marymoor Park, 5:30 p.m., at the parking lot by the administrative building (the closest parking lot to the entrance on the right). Bechmann, Barnfather, Smith, and possibly Colt committed to attend. A regular, abbreviated RTC meeting would be held at 7:00 p.m. at ORSCC.***

***Smith will contact Dennis Brunelle, project manager, for more information.*** Gorremans noted Tim Cox would be at the trail walk.

#### **B. Redmond Transportation Plan – Charlier**

Gorremans referenced a memo from Kurt Seemann to City Council regarding the schedule update for the TMP. She encouraged Commissioners to send their comments to the consultant, Charlier, as soon as possible.

Barnfather asked staff regarding the location and theory of the transit center. Gorremans responded that she knew of no other information, other than that they would re-do the current Park and Ride site with housing on the upper level. It was also thought that temporary parking could occur on the municipal campus' current grassy knoll/art mound after the new garage was built.

#### **C. Evans Creek Trail Update**

Gorremans reported the Evans Creek Trail is under construction (handout regarding approval of award of bid to Construction Northwest. The elevated trail over a portion of the creek is being constructed. The Department of Fish and Wildlife gave the permit to build this portion with a deadline of October 15, 2004, in order to give a large window next year for building the trail over Union Shares property.

Staff wrote a letter to request an extension of funding from the IAC (handout). The elevated structure over Union Shares was taken out at this time in order to build the two segments with IAC money: (1) 95<sup>th</sup> Street to the end and (2) from Union Hill Road to the end, with the elevated gap in the middle. Gorremans noted CIP money would construct the elevated gap in 2005 using another awarded bid/contract.

#### **D. Bear Creek Park Trail Update**

Gorremans wrote an IAC grant for \$180,000 for the Bear Creek Park Trail development; and, in partnership with Public Works, she also wrote a TEA-21 grant for \$466,000 for the paving of the trail. A sidewalk widening would also be done as part of the Redmond Way street-widening project.

Request for Proposals were issued to three firms, and Reid-Middleton was selected to design the trail. The firms were notified September 28; there has been no formalized contract as of this date. Gorremans showed a handout of a conceptual drawing where the trail would go. She highlighted the following details of the trail development:

- A soft surface parallel to the hard surface
- A separate interpretive trail toward Bear Creek
- Plant removal and replanting
- A wetland reconnaissance to confirm no wetlands are present
- Improvements to the trail under Union Hill Road
- Sidewalk widening at Union Hill Road and Avondale Way
- A possible trail split: a replacement sidewalk for pedestrians, and a narrower trail below for bicycles (trees would not have to be taken out)
- A pedestrian light crossing on Redmond Way will be installed by December in a separate project

Discussion ensued regarding equestrian use in the downtown area. Gorremans asked Commissioners to discuss equestrian use on the Bear Creek Trail with Tim Cox, Manager of Parks Planning. ***Smith directed staff to put this topic on the agenda when Cox can be present next month, and discuss it as a high priority at the next meeting. Staff will follow up.***

#### **E. York Bridge Update**

Commissioners received a drawing showing trail connections for the York Bridge project. Gorremans reported 90% drawings have been completed; no construction date has been set. The trail would go under NE 116<sup>th</sup> Street.

Barnfather inquired about the extension of the 116<sup>th</sup> trail to the point of the bridge. Gorremans described the "paper road" from 116<sup>th</sup> that the City owns, which could provide a "conceivable connection." Barnfather asked if the new bridge design would allow for that connection. Gorremans explained that staff is planning to come to RTC in the future to prioritize trail projects. Gorremans and Roy Lehner, Park Planner, have been listing trail connection projects that they would like to see

finished. These projects have no funding, so staff would look for an umbrella of funding along with grant matches to complete some of these projects. The IAC development grant program would not be available until 2006. However, one idea could be to put money aside—e.g., a “trail completion fund”—toward this goal.

## **F. Sammamish River Bridge Update**

Gorremans reported that King County is not going to replace the soft surface trail by the Sammamish River Bridge, due to the approach to the bridge being so large. Vegetation prevents going further. RTC would have to write a letter to King County to allow the City to replace the trail; however, it is not in the City’s plan to do so.

Gorremans noted Tim Cox reasoned that over time, the trail project could be referred to Parks Maintenance. Smith verified therefore that a letter would not be needed from the Commission to the County. Gorremans confirmed it would eventually take care of itself. Colt emphasized that staff would need to follow up to ensure it would get done.

## **G. PSE Trail (East/West)**

### **1. East Portion**

Gorremans reported the City did not receive the TEA-21 grant to build the PSE trail portion east of the Sammamish River. She reasoned perhaps it was in part because the grant required a trail-feed into an urban center, and also funds were being directed toward the BNSF railroad (Burlington Northern) study. Bechmann did not believe a 7% grade requirement for the 8-foot hard/4-foot soft-surface trail would be possible anyway.

Gorremans also noted the City is proposing to finish the 116<sup>th</sup> trail, constructing sidewalks.

### **2. West Portion**

Gorremans reported that Public Works has decided to allocate funding for the PSE trail west of the Sammamish River. The funding should remain within Public Works, so no letter is needed from the Commission. Gorremans noted there was not enough money to do the feasibility study; however, Public Works would be handling it and possibly adding more money toward funding in 2005.

A possibility exists in the future of a partnership with King County for property, in which RTC could still write a letter. However, the Bike-Ped Committee (PBAC) is taking the lead on it.

Barnfather suggested Commissioners discuss a specific project in which Public Works is involved, e.g., the PSE trail west of the Sammamish River.

#### **H. Nicholls Trail Negotiation**

Gorremans reported staff is in pursuit of a new contract for the Nicholls Trail, located on the west side of Farrel-McWhirter Park. The previous contract, which is now up for renewal, was a 5-year lease for \$1.00 to use the property for the Farrel-McWhirter perimeter trail. Gorremans has attempted to contact the Nicholls, but has not heard back.

Colt stated that Ms. Barbara Beeson, former Redmond citizen, would have the correct numbers and could assist staff if they so desired. Chenault referred Gorremans to Penny Nichol's number as a more direct contact. ***Staff will follow up in obtaining the number.***

#### **I. New Trails Commissioner Search**

Gorremans reported that staff is considering re-advertising for the new Trails Commissioner position. Two applicants have been interviewed. Smith noted, and Chenault concurred, and one of the applicants was worth pursuing. ***Smith will talk to Tim Cox to verify the applicant for the position.***

#### **J. Nov/Dec Combined Meeting**

Commissioners agreed to combine the November and December meetings to one meeting on December 1 (December 8 would be a back-up date, should that work better for Commissioner and staff attendance).

#### **K. Boards and Commissions Dinner Report**

Commissioners who attended the Boards and Commissions dinner reported it was very successful and enjoyable, including the entertainment.

### **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Smith at 8:47 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Recording Secretary, Pam Maybee

**THE NEXT REDMOND TRAILS COMMISSION MEETING:**

***Trail Tour***

**Wednesday, October 27, 2004**

**Meet at Marymoor Park to walk the trail west of W. Lk. Samm. Pkwy.  
5:30 p.m.**

***Followed by an abbreviated regular meeting***  
**Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center**  
**7:00 p.m.**